

Town of Hampton



*Department of Resources and
Economic Development*



**Hampton Beach Area Commission
100 Winnacunnet Road
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842
Hampton Police Station – 2nd Floor Training Room
7:00 PM**

November 17, 2011

MINUTES

In Attendance:

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton
Fran McMahon- Rockingham Planning Commission
Bob Preston- Hampton Chamber of Commerce
Geannina Guzman-Scanlan-Hampton Beach Village District
Bill Watson, Vice Chairman-NH Department of Transportation
Chuck Rage, Hampton Beach Village District
Rick Griffin, Town Selectmen

Absent: Deputy Richard Sawyer, Citizen at Large
Michael Housman, Operations Supervisor, DRED (Seacoast Parks/Recreation)

Other: James Steffen – Town Planner
Laurie Olivier- Secretary

1. Introduction of Commissioners

Mr. Nyhan introduced the above members and stated noted those excused from attending.

2. Public Comment Session – related to agenda items

3. Review & approval of 05/19/11 & 9/22/11 Minutes

Mr. Nyhan first reviewed the May 19th Minutes.

MOTION by Mr. McMahon to approve the May 19, 2011 Minutes.

SECOND by Mr. Rage.

VOTE: 4 – 0 – 2 (Mr. Griffin & Ms. Guzman-Scanlan abstained). **MOTION PASSED.**

Mr. Nyhan then reviewed the September 22, 2011 Minutes.

MOTION by Mr. McMahon to accept the September 22, 2011 Minutes.

SECOND by Mr. Rage.

VOTE – 4 – 0 – 2 (Mr. Watson and Ms. Guzman-Scanlan abstained). MOTION PASSED.

Appointments –

1. None

Chairman's Report

1. Commissioner Appointments

- a. Updated list of Commissioners and end dates

Mr. Nyhan discussed reappointments and new appointments. Mr. Watson and Mr. Housman are ongoing members. Mr. McMahon's term ends in 2013. Mr. Preston's term has been extended to 2014. Mr. Rage has been appointed and his term ends in 2014. Ms. Guzman-Scanlan has one more year and it ends in 2012. Mr. Griffin's term was extended for another three years and it ends in 2014.

- b. Commissioner at Large – recommendation – Reappointment of Deputy Rich Sawyer

Mr. Nyhan discussed one more appointment to be made, which is the reappointment of Mr. Sawyer as Commissioner-at-Large.

MOTION by Mr. Rage to reappoint Mr. Sawyer as Commissioner-at-Large.

SECOND by Mr. Griffin.

Mr. Preston discussed Mr. Sawyer's term should go to the end of this session, so next summer if we are looking, we can ramp up next fall rather than starting out and changing in November or December. Mr. Sawyer's term would end officially in October, but Mr. Preston thinks someone should be appointed in September rather than October. That would be an amendment to the motion by Mr. Preston and seconded by Mr. Rage.

MOTION by Mr. Preston to reappoint Deputy Sawyer through the end of May, at which point the Commission can then, starting next September, when the Commission reconvenes, would appoint a new Commissioner-at-Large.

Mr. Nyhan has to double check the RSA to make sure that that type of change can be made or if an amendment needs to be made to the RSA. Mr. Preston said it's easier to do it this way.

The Commission then decided to now withdraw the above motion with the amendment. Mr. Nyhan asked if all were in favor of Deputy Sawyer being reappointed.

VOTE: 6 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

2. Economic Development Discussion with Beach owners

Mr. Nyhan discussed the mini economic summit. After giving this more thought and discussion, he wants to change it around a bit. Under the HBAC objectives to 2011 and 2012, there is a different strategy proposed to be discussed later at this meeting.

3. Financial support – Meeting clerk

Mr. Nyhan stated we still need help. Mr. Rage feels comfortable that it can be brought up in the springtime from the Precinct. Any help with funds would be helpful. Right now the Town is covering costs, but the Town knows that it will be reimbursed.

4. Recommendation: HBAC role in 2012 State Park Stage Gala Opening

There have been some informal discussions about the HBAC becoming the host of the 2012 grand opening of the seashell complex and stage. The Commission needs to plan the event. This would be under the conditions that if the HBAC decides to take on this role, it would be in cooperation with HBVP, the Town and the Chamber. DRED agreed with everything and wants the Commission to oversee the gala. The HBAC is the vehicle to raise funds for the gala. No public funds will be spent. No money in DRED's budget will cover the cost of the event. They will help in marketing and will help that weekend with staff, etc. This event will happen sometime in early June. Mr. Rage discussed the sand sculpture and the dates of the 14th and 16th. This will be a Friday and a Saturday, on a weekend and will be the first or second weekend in June. Entertainment will be brought in. Ribbon cutting will be Friday evening. Ocean Boulevard will be closed as a walking area in front of the stage. Vendors can set up arts and crafts for Friday night and Saturday. A top-notch entertainer or group would also appear. The Schaakes will help identify and negotiate a group such as The Beach Boys, Chicago, The Boston Pops--something at that level for Saturday evening. This could be a \$40,000 weekend. Looking for corporate sponsorships was discussed. Selling tickets is also an idea to think about. Any money collected would be channeled through the HBAC. We can receive money in and pay money out. DRED is the accounts payable in this operation, but we have our own account. He asked if the Commission is willing to take this on.

Mr. Preston thinks it's a great way to kick off the summer. There should be a lot of press with this also. He agrees in shutting down the Boulevard.

Mr. McMahon thinks it's a great idea with a lot of details to work out. He discussed the State selling sponsorship of the venue. This could be a source of revenue. Mr. Nyhan stated DRED has this on the table up for discussion.

Mr. Rage supports the idea. He thinks \$40,000 is pretty low.

Mr. Watson thinks it's a great idea and coinciding with the sandcastles is great too. He said we should have full control over what money is needed. The money should not be on the State's calendar, but stay on for the benefit of the Town. We cannot put any public funds into the weekend. It cannot be a State-hosted event.

Ms. Guzman-Scanlan thinks it's challenging and it's a great time to showcase what has been accomplished.

Mr. Griffin thinks it's a good idea. The Boston Pops would be great to get if possible. There may be more community response with a group like that. It might be too late to get a

warrant article – pay \$5,000 to the Boston Pops to play at Hampton Beach. Mr. Nyhan asked if January 10th is when warrant articles should be presented by.

Mr. Rage asked about the account. Budgeting spending was discussed by Mr. Rage. He stated we need to make sure the money is available and that it goes into the account. Mr. Nyhan stated under HBAC there is an account, separate from the DRED account. Any draws from that account in order to pay an expense, would require that a letter be submitted to DRED. Finance will be an important component of this Committee.

Mr. Watson discussed State policy and procedures requiring that the State goes in front of a legislative finance committee to set up a budget and to get permission to spend funds.

MOTION by Mr. Preston to move forward and accept responsibility to be the host with the cooperation by Precinct, Town and Chamber.

SECOND by Mr. Griffin.

VOTE: 6 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Griffin noted that he will bring this up at the Selectmen's meeting also.

Old Business

1. State Park Project Update & Winter Schedule (Housman)

Mr. Housman was not present at the meeting, but he sent Mr. Nyhan an email with updates which Mr. Nyhan read and discussed. The bathrooms will be open this winter from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Harvey is expecting CO's by the end of this month (November). The punch list items will be done by mid-December. Contractors will be hired to build a temporary dune and protect south bathhouse and parking area. This will be in front of the Haverhill Street bathhouse. That is an ongoing activity. Dune will be flattened in the spring. Showers have been relocated closer to the beach since the dry well systems didn't work. There is a park donation; the Division of Parks and Recreation has a \$22,000 sculpture. It will be about 8' in height, granite and installed by the south bathhouse. Mr. Nyhan spoke with Tom Mansfield regarding some way of protecting the stage over the winter from vandalism and graffiti. A temporary barrier being set up was discussed. He asked Mr. Mansfield to look at options. He asked for short-term ideas until someone can come up with something long term.

Mr. Preston stated people are going inside of fences now to see what is going on, but maybe it should be kept lit at night.

Mr. Rage stated that so much damage is happening. Mr. Griffin stated we need cameras. Mr. McMahon stated the cameras are more for after-the-fact vandalism, and not used as a preventative. Mr. Nyhan will send out a formal memorandum on this.

2. Request to Review – Proposed plans – Old Surf Hotel land

Mr. Nyhan received a call from the architect and he asked the Beach Commission to sit down with him and the owners of the property to review the design to date. He will send out an email once he has more information.

3. DES/DOT Drainage Issue (near Boars Head) – (Watson)

As of November 4, 2011, a building permit to improve the drainage problem was approved by the DES. Work has to be done in August through April and done at low tide. He

spoke with Doug DePorter and it will be done before winter sets in. Work has not started yet. Mr. Griffin asked about orange trucks digging in the road and the massive puddles. This is in the Little Jack's/Boar's Head area. Mr. Nyhan stated due to the work of the Commission, that working with the Town and State and Commission has been successful in pushing for this work to be commenced and completed. He thanked Mr. Watson for his efforts.

4. Request to Crime line – signage along the beach re: graffiti

Mr. Nyhan discussed Crimeline and DRED. Deputy Sawyer set up a meeting with Crimeline and with DRED and Mr. Nyhan attended the meeting. It was discussed what could be done and the bottom line is that DRED is receptive to incorporate signage along the beach at different fencing areas – especially around the bath areas. Deputy Sawyer will follow up on getting the signs. Mike Housman indicated that he will get necessary approvals from DRED. It was a positive meeting. This isn't a solution, but is one step to identify crimes at the beach.

5. Other Old Business

New Business

1. Proposed HBAC Objectives for 2011-2012
 - a. Outcome of individual meetings with each Commissioner

Spearheading topics to occur over the next seven or eight months was discussed. Mr. Nyhan still needs one meeting with Mr. Griffin, but met with everybody else.

Mr. Watson discussed transportation planning. Funding and grant opportunities were discussed. Cooperation of all local groups is needed. Who has jurisdiction, i.e. DOT, Town, DRED, etc. Maintenance of sidewalks, graffiti, crime was discussed as well as outlining responsibilities in the beach area. He will work on a memorandum to Mr. Griffin and Mr. Griffin asked Mr. Watson to come to the Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Watson has been closed down from the Town before he is even heard. He feels it should be discussed in public and Mr. Watson believes that would be a great idea. Mr. Griffin will bring that up at his meeting.

Ms. Guzman-Scanlan believes the Commission should support Mr. Watson's attendance at the Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Rage will help Mr. Watson with transportation. Many people need transportation because they do not drive, etc. He will work with Mr. Preston to help people improve their properties as well. Mr. Nyhan stated that Mr. Rage offered his assistance on the Route 1 and 101 project. It could be a remote parking area for the beach.

Mr. McMahon discussed transportation also and the ten-year plan. He discussed the RPC's 10-year plan about reconstructing Ocean Boulevard. He discussed signage and crosswalks. Projects need to be identified and added to the 10-year plan. The Planning Commission discussed the Route One and 101 Interchange. Mr. McMahon also discussed the Planning Board's concerns about temporary parking lots and what we do with those. Some lots have been in existence for a long time and he discussed how it affects the beach. Mr. McMahon discussed Zoning and making adjustments to the Ordinance. Mr. Griffin asked about the success rate of warrant articles. Mr. McMahon stated housekeeping ones are successful. Having commercial businesses on the first floor was big to pass. Mr. McMahon will also be on Mr. Preston's committee if zoning or planning issues are to be discussed.

Mr. Preston discussed how everything looks great on the west side and that it is too bad the east side does not look better. The Mitchells area looking nice and the McKeon's future place looking good will be a great asset. The playground area is good. He needs to see if people in between the sprucing up area will spruce up the area also. He discussed McDonalds and Ms. Stiles' conversation. Mr. Nyhan stated we need to look also on Ashworth Avenue.

Ms. Guzman-Scanlan is interested in community work. Families and tourists were discussed. She wants to seek out Blue Ocean projects, arts and crafts, some educational opportunities for families and individuals to learn about our historic and natural attributes. Mr. Nyhan wants Blue Ocean down here somehow to get nature and sea information brought to the Coast. Finding a location to set up shop was discussed.

Mr. Griffin stated he is actively working on the projects mentioned above. He is on the Planning Board as well. He brings up many topics via the Board Of Selectmen and Planning and being on this Commission. He will continue to work to broaden the scope of cooperation from the Board Of Selectmen. He also discussed a new resident to Hampton Beach who would be willing to help, and that is Ben Moore. He helps make the Tuck Museum what it is today. Ben and Betty living at the beach will be a big help.

2. Other New Business

Mr. Watson discussed the 10-year plan. There was a meeting on October 26th with Senator Stiles, Counselor Sununu, etc., and Hampton Beach was not discussed at all. The Hampton River Bridge was discussed. He will work with Mr. McMahon for planning in the Hampton Beach area as it has been overlooked. He had a meeting this week with the Executive Council and there is a final meeting on November 30th and it is open to the public. It will be to discuss the 10-year plan. After the 10-year plan, it goes to the Governor. By next June we get marching orders of what work will be done over the next two years.

Mr. Nyhan asked Mr. Watson what the Commission should do now to get concerns on someone's table for Hampton Beach issues to be considered. Mr. Watson stated we should reach out to the Rockingham Planning Commission. Long-range plans versus short-term plans were discussed. He mentioned doing a campaign through Councilor Sununu also. Mr. Griffin discussed the Memorandum of Understanding and sewage from North Hampton. There will be a warrant article sponsored for that. Getting participation from Dyanna Martin at the Recreation Department would be beneficial.

Mr. Griffin discussed bag for tag also and how it is lethal for the beach. People voted twice to not do this. People at the beach have no input on this. He hopes his opinion and work on this helps the HBAC. He felt it was bad for the beach with rentals. It's been postponed for a year.

Mr. Watson discussed three applications for funding that have been submitted; a letter of intent. Beach access improvements were discussed. TCSP was discussed. The FY-11 application process was discussed. Seawall improvements and other projects were discussed for FY-12 which is \$25 Million nationally which could change. The Commission may want to revise their prior application on seeking funding. January 6th is the deadline for applications.

Mr. Nyhan would like to sit down with Mr. Watson to revisit the TCSP application and see if they can downsize it and choose different strategies. Having an updated Master Plan was discussed. He asked if the Commission was in favor of this and will discuss this at the December meeting. The Commission agreed that it is fine.

Mr. Preston discussed the Boulevard being congested. Having a road west of Ashworth Avenue was discussed to help with traffic. Making the beach block deeper was discussed. Grant money was discussed.

Mr. Griffin discussed the Hampton Harbor will not be dredged even though there is State money for it. Bev Hollingworth worked on this in the past. People with businesses may not know this. It's been postponed for another year. Mr. Griffin will keep the Commission posted on this.

Mr. Charlie Preston stated the grand opening should recognize Cushman, Kepner, Mr. Clark and Governor Lynch and Beverly Hollingworth, along with others. He asked to check out home grown talent also—Plaque for Gold. Mr. Griffin discussed Barry D'Nelien (sp) who is local.

Adjourn

MOVED by Mr. Rage to adjourn.

SECOND by Mr. Griffin.

VOTE: 6 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Laurie Olivier
Secretary